F-726

FIG. 1

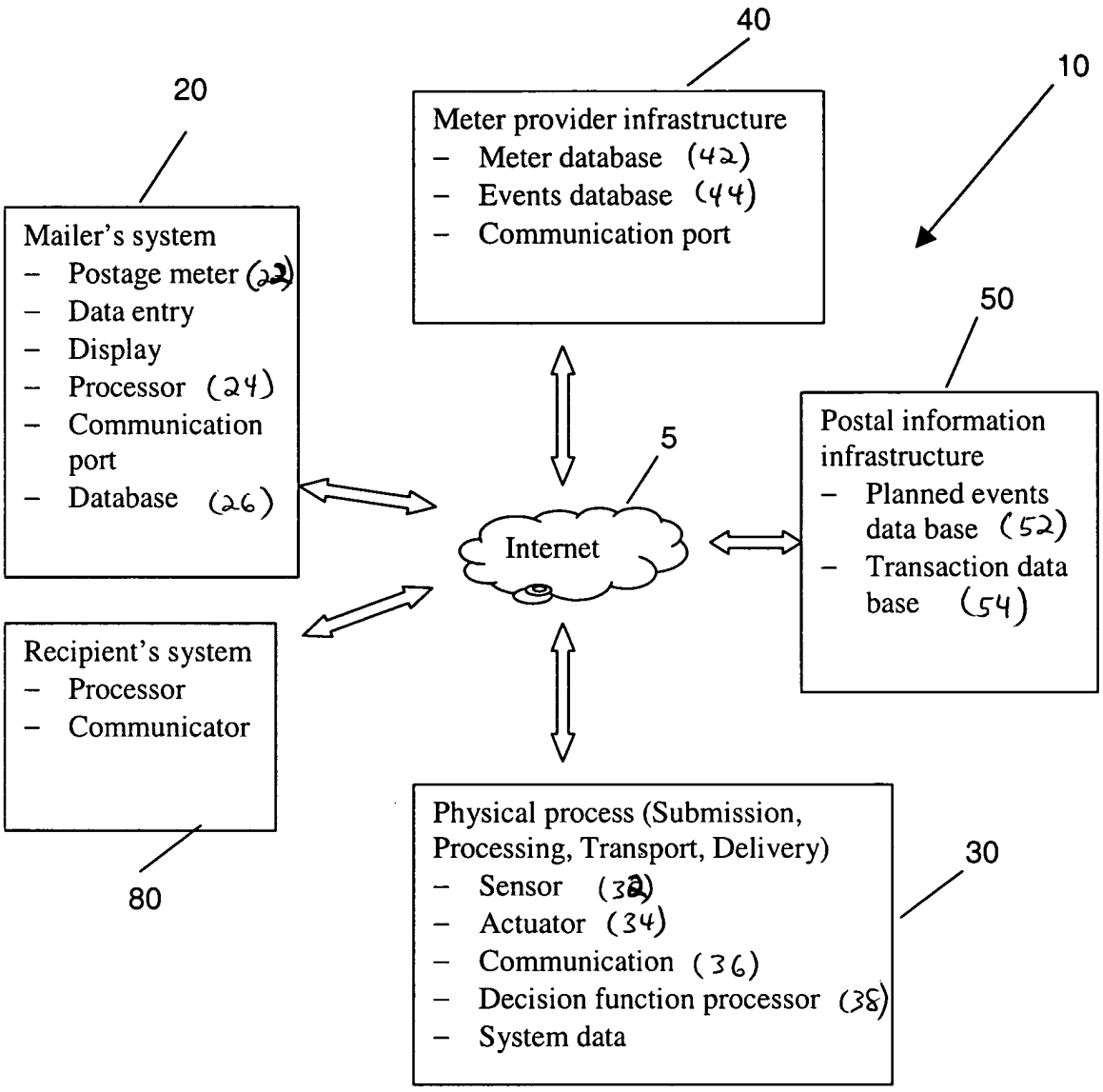
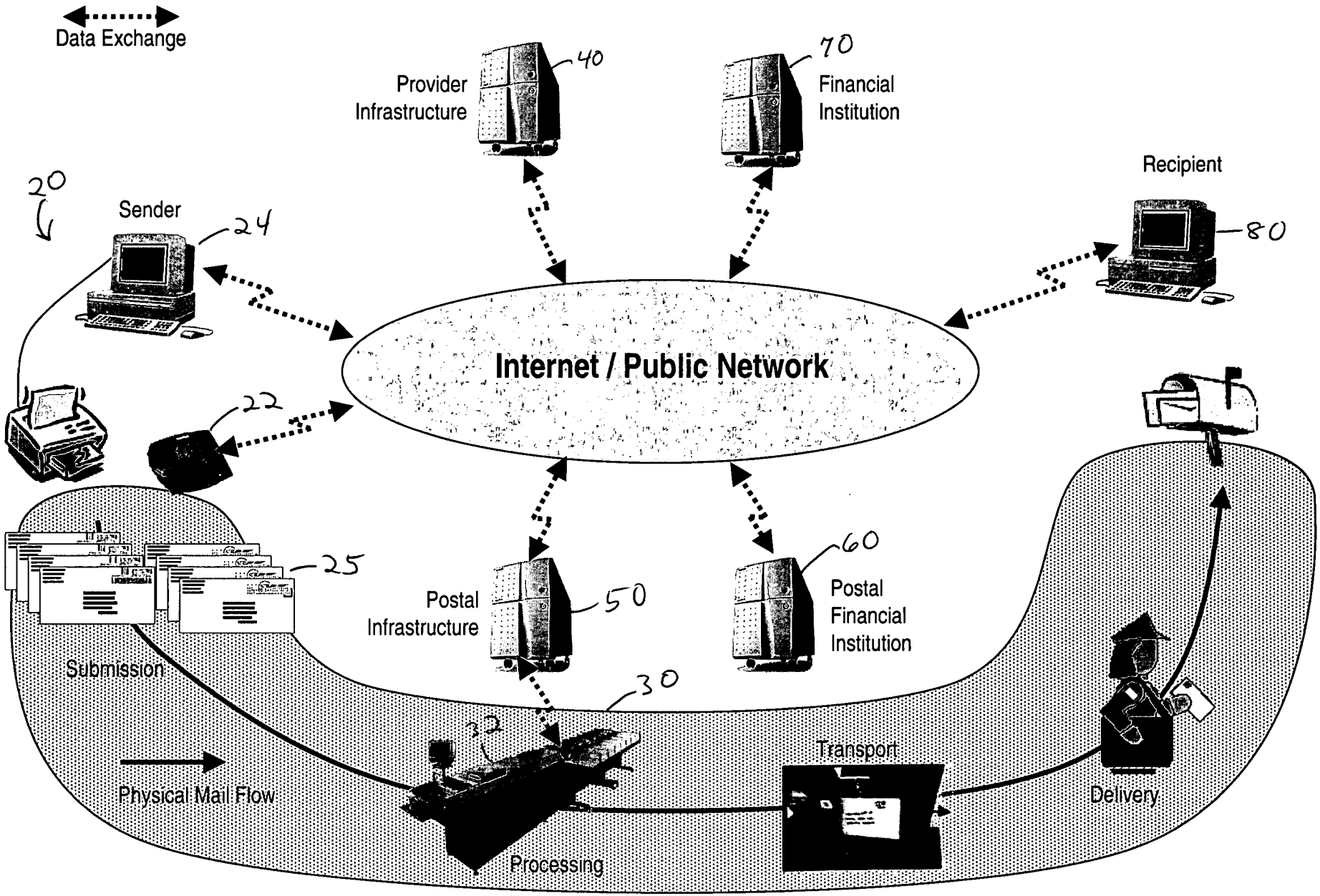

40
10
20
Meter provider infrastructure
– Meter database (42)
– Events database (44)
– Communication port
Mailer's system
– Postage meter (22)
– Data entry
– Display
– Processor (24)
– Communication port
– Database (26)
50
5
Internet
Postal information infrastructure
– Planned events data base (52)
– Transaction data base (54)
Recipient's system
– Processor
– Communicator
80
Physical process (Submission, Processing, Transport, Delivery)
– Sensor (32)
– Actuator (34)
– Communication (36)
– Decision function processor (38)
– System data
30

Fig. 2


Data Exchange
Provider Infrastructure
40
70
Financial Institution
Recipient
80
20
Sender
24
Internet / Public Network
22
25
Postal Infrastructure
50
60
Postal Financial Institution
Submission
30
32
Transport
Physical Mail Flow
Delivery
Processing

F-726

FIG. 3

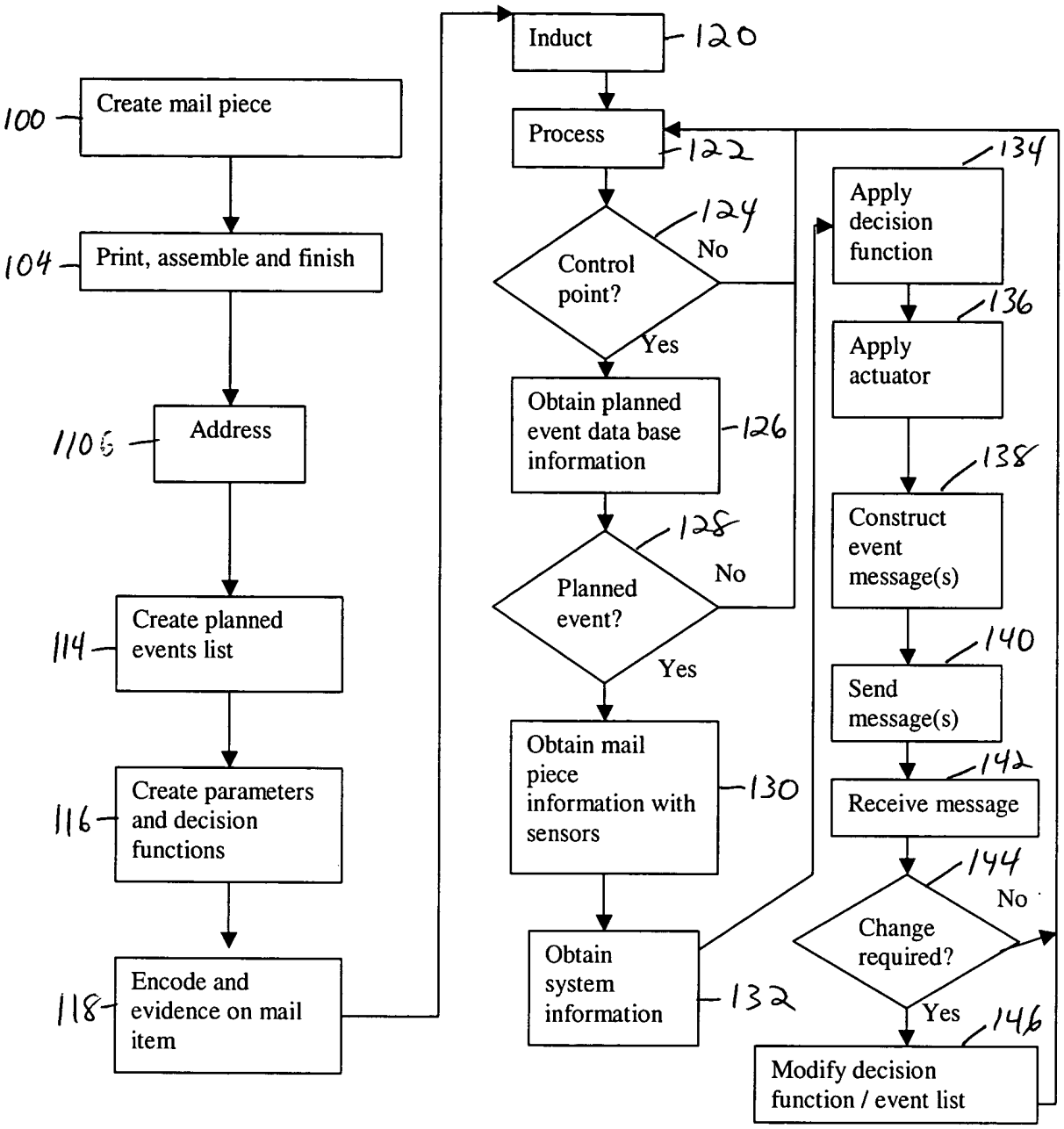

100
Create mail piece
104
Print, assemble and finish
106
Address
114
Create planned events list
116
Create parameters and decision functions
118
Encode and evidence on mail item
Induct
120
Process
122
124
Control point?
No
Yes
Obtain planned event data base information
126
128
Planned event?
No
Yes
Obtain mail piece information with sensors
130
Obtain system information
132
134
Apply decision function
136
Apply actuator
138
Construct event message(s)
140
Send message(s)
142
Receive message
144
Change required?
No
Yes
146
Modify decision function / event list

FIG. 4

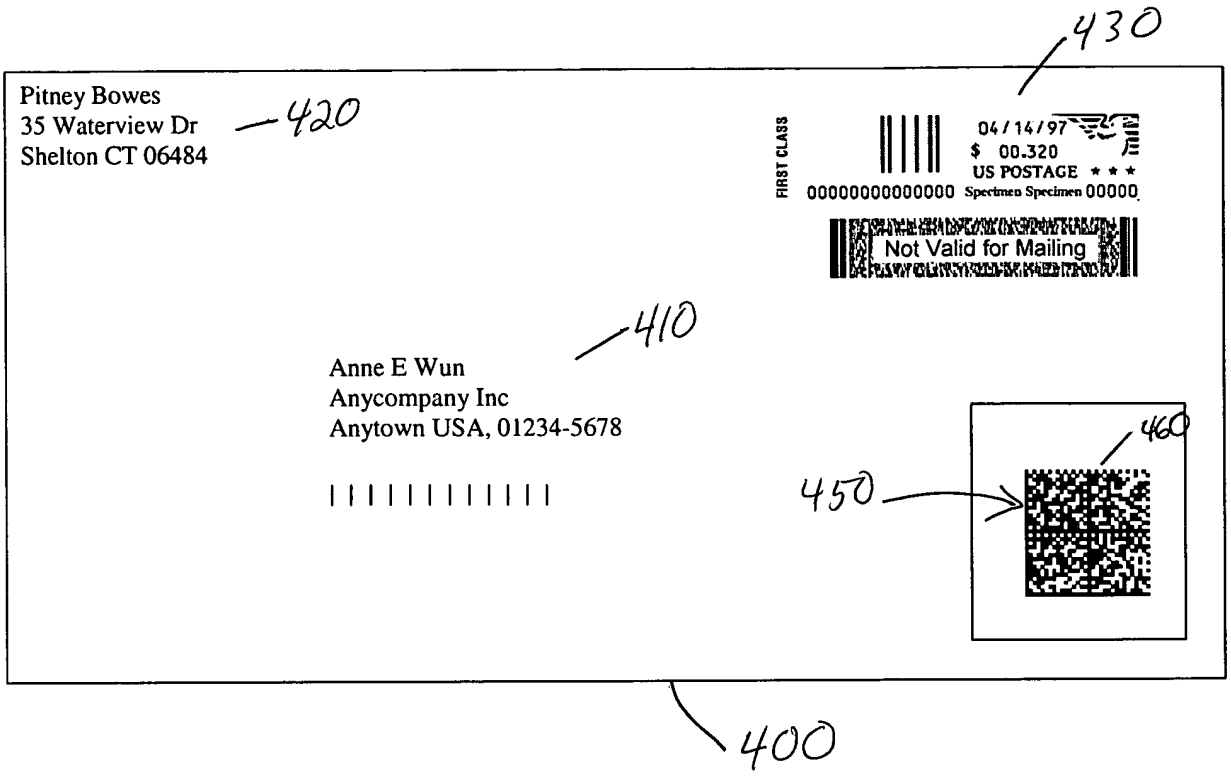

430
Pitney Bowes
35 Waterview Dr
Shelton CT 06484
420
FIRST CLASS
04/14/97
$ 00.320
US POSTAGE
00000000000000 Specimen Specimen 00000
Not Valid for Mailing
410
Anne E Wun
Anycompany Inc
Anytown USA, 01234-5678
460
450
400

FIG. 5

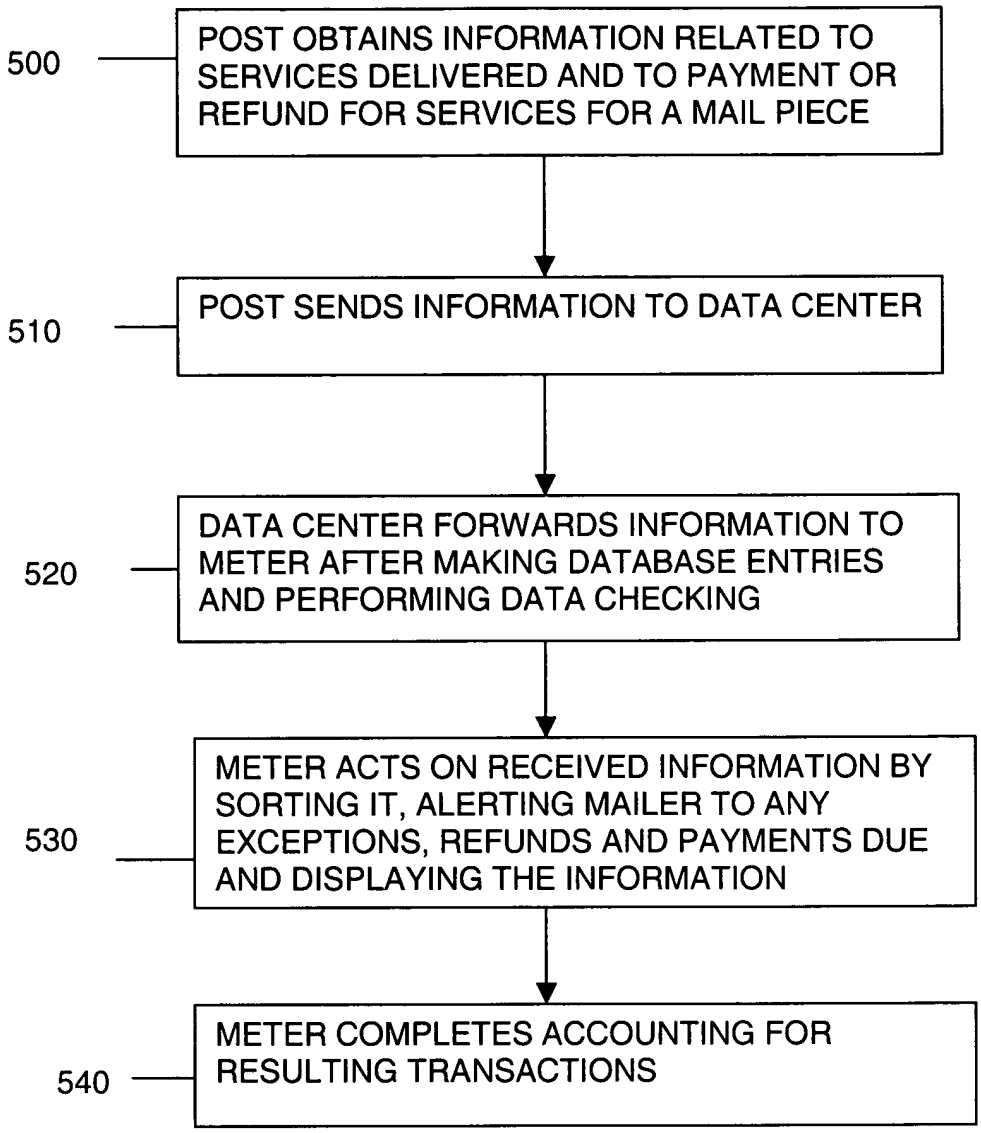

500
POST OBTAINS INFORMATION RELATED TO SERVICES DELIVERED AND TO PAYMENT OR REFUND FOR SERVICES FOR A MAIL PIECE
510
POST SENDS INFORMATION TO DATA CENTER
520
DATA CENTER FORWARDS INFORMATION TO METER AFTER MAKING DATABASE ENTRIES AND PERFORMING DATA CHECKING
530
METER ACTS ON RECEIVED INFORMATION BY SORTING IT, ALERTING MAILER TO ANY EXCEPTIONS, REFUNDS AND PAYMENTS DUE AND DISPLAYING THE INFORMATION
540
METER COMPLETES ACCOUNTING FOR RESULTING TRANSACTIONS

FIG. 6

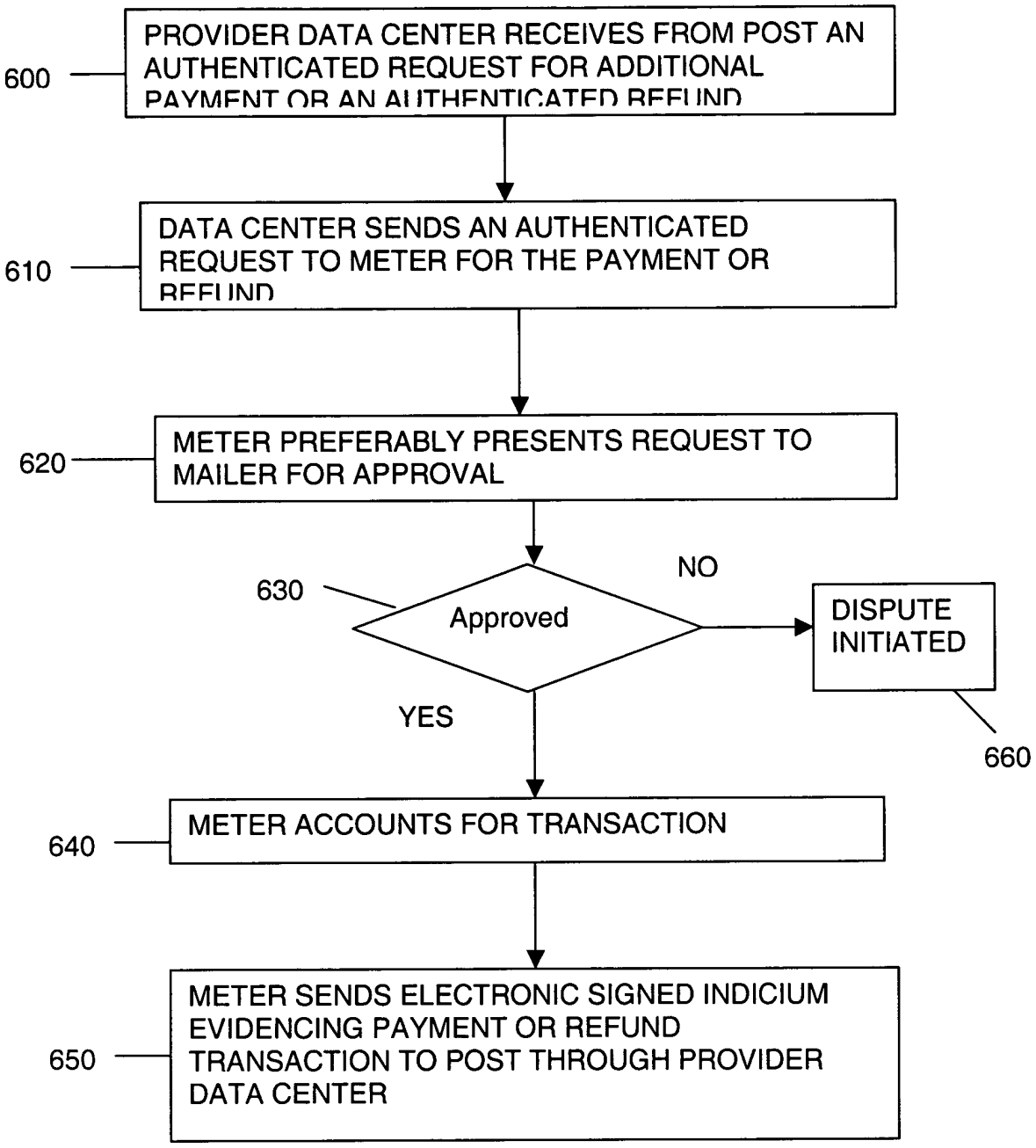
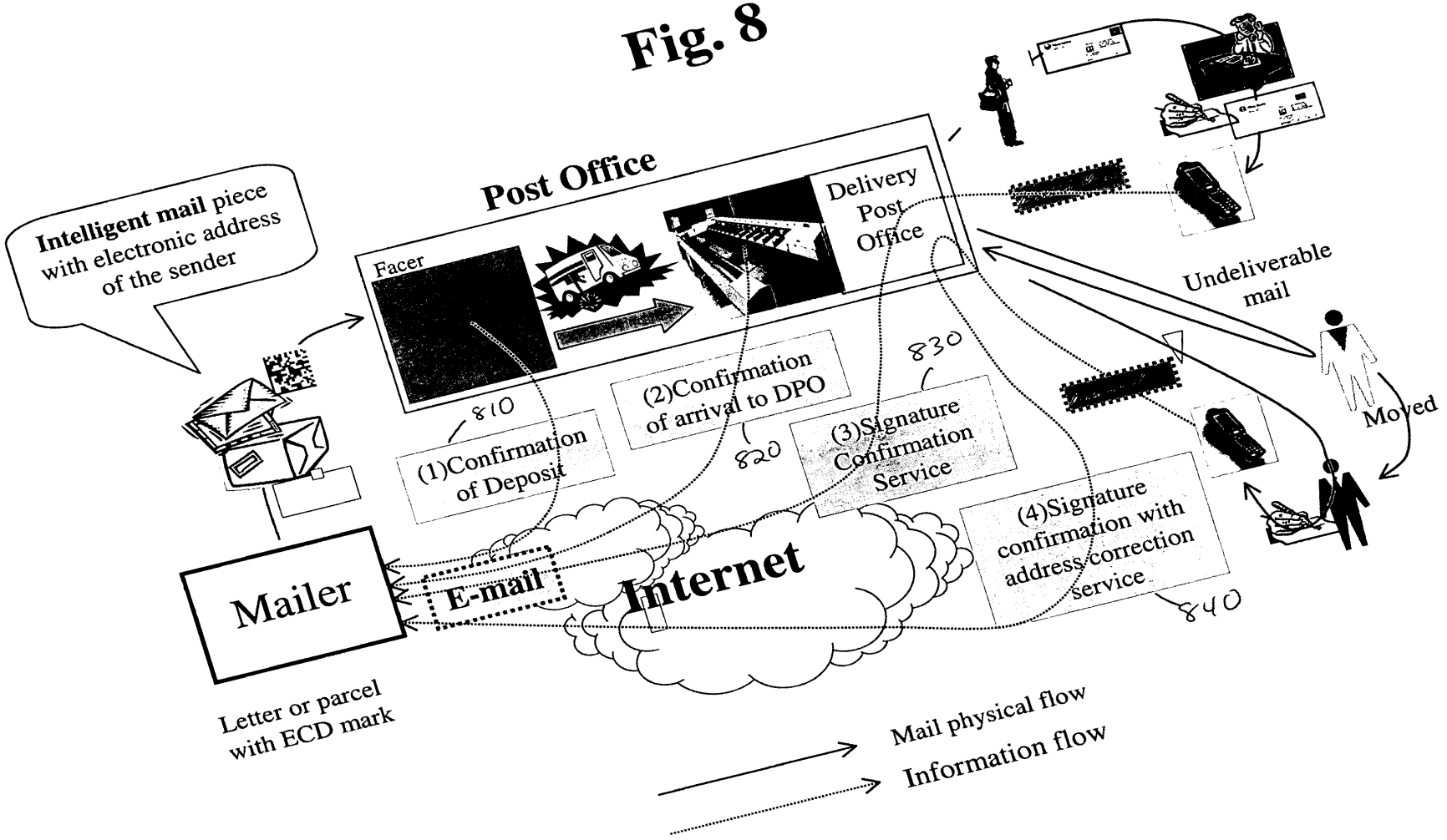

600
PROVIDER DATA CENTER RECEIVES FROM POST AN AUTHENTICATED REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL PAYMENT OR AN AUTHENTICATED REFUND
610
DATA CENTER SENDS AN AUTHENTICATED REQUEST TO METER FOR THE PAYMENT OR REFUND
620
METER PREFERABLY PRESENTS REQUEST TO MAILER FOR APPROVAL
630
Approved
NO
DISPUTE INITIATED
660
YES
640
METER ACCOUNTS FOR TRANSACTION
650
METER SENDS ELECTRONIC SIGNED INDICIUM EVIDENCING PAYMENT OR REFUND TRANSACTION TO POST THROUGH PROVIDER DATA CENTER

Fig. 7

	Mail Item requested service	Actions on Mail Piece Content	Actions on Image of Mail Item or Content	Attributes	Standard of Evidence
Event 1 F/C scan of collection mail item	Normal process	N/A	No action	Date/Time/ Location	Mail Item ID Attributes
Event 2 Remittance mail intercepted	Divert and Open at first control point	Scan Content	Send Image of the Content to specified e-address	Date/Time/ Location Image	Send all data digitally signed and encrypted
Event 3 Receipt by recipient	Notify sender of hand over to recipient	N/A	Scan Mail Item	Date/Time/ Location and condition	Send all data digitally signed

Fig. 8


Intelligent mail piece with electronic address of the sender
Post Office
Facer
Delivery Post Office
Undeliverable mail
Moved
(1)Confirmation of Deposit
(2)Confirmation of arrival to DPO
(3)Signature Confirmation Service
(4)Signature confirmation with address correction service
810
820
830
840
Mailer
E-mail
Internet
Letter or parcel with ECD mark
Mail physical flow
Information flow

F-726

FIG. 9

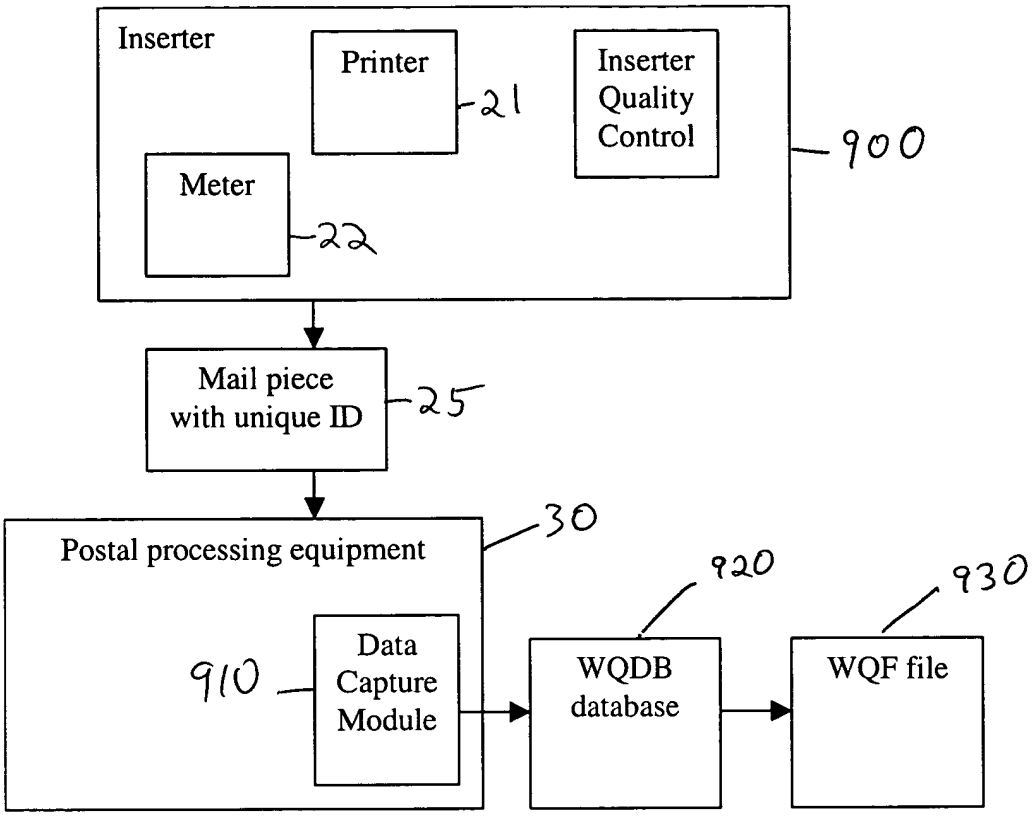
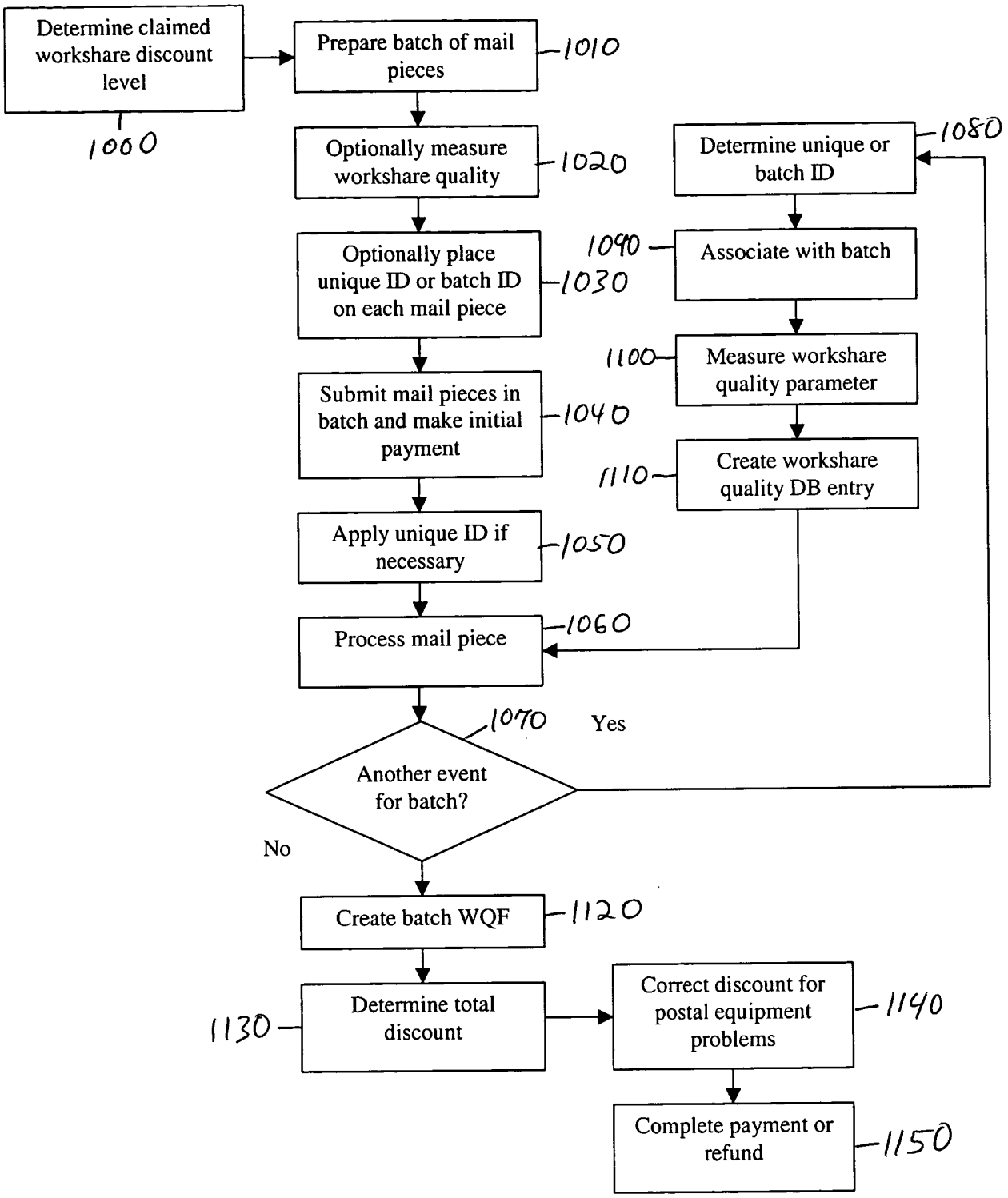

Inserter
Printer
21
Inserter Quality Control
900
Meter
22
Mail piece with unique ID
25
Postal processing equipment
30
920
930
910
Data Capture Module
WQDB database
WQF file

FIG. 10


Determine claimed workshare discount level
1000
Prepare batch of mail pieces
1010
Optionally measure workshare quality
1020
Optionally place unique ID or batch ID on each mail piece
1030
Submit mail pieces in batch and make initial payment
1040
Apply unique ID if necessary
1050
Process mail piece
1060
Another event for batch?
1070
Yes
No
Determine unique or batch ID
1080
Associate with batch
1090
Measure workshare quality parameter
1100
Create workshare quality DB entry
1110
Create batch WQF
1120
Determine total discount
1130
Correct discount for postal equipment problems
1140
Complete payment or refund
1150